HAWAII FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

May 23, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 72th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Subject: PS Docket Number 07-8; CC Docket Number 94-102;
WT Docket Numbers 03-264, 06-150, 06-169 **and 96-86;**
and EB Docket Number 06-119

On behalf of **our** state's emergency responders, the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) requests that the FCC consider the **needs** and interests of public safety professionals as the highest priority **during** the rulemaking process for the creation of a national public safety broadband network. Successful command and control of emergency incidents require immediate access to reliable and robust radio signals by all responders to ensure a well-coordinated, multidisciplinary approach. The current inability to readily communicate between individual "patch-worked" systems has proven to **impede** critical operations and threaten responder safety in the course of rendering assistance. A **seamless,** wireless broadband public safety radio communications network with sufficient and priority access for data transmissions is imperative.

The FCC's intended auction of frequency spectrum in the 700 MHz **band presents an** exceptional opportunity to join with allied partners, both public and **private,** to increase **the** quantity of available frequencies for first **responder** data communications **and** provide an opportunity to augment and back up mission critical land-mobile voice communications, as well as to greatly improve the condition and trustworthiness of such communications.

The HFCA specifically requests that a minimum of 10 MHz of the *700* MHz **spectrum** band scheduled for auction under the Digital Television Act be made accessible under service rules that require that the winner of the auction possess a binding agreement with public safety for its participation in the national public safety broadband network as a condition to receiving their license.

Moreover, it is critical that the FCC place public safety in control of the national public safety broadband network by licensing public safety's spectrum to a stand-alone entity representative of Public Safety **leaders,** who will be in charge of the network and ensure it will be built to the level of reliability and redundancy that first responders require. This network must
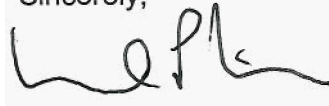
be a **self-sustaining enterprise and must Rave the capability to build-out in rural and insular areas** as public **safety must have a** "universal"**system.**

Access to a satellite **overlay to** extend the reach of **public safety's network to encompass areas** where a **terrestrial build is** not **economic and as a backup in times** of **disasters when existing infrastructures** are not **available,** *is* solid public policy that **would benefit public safety and** the **public** in **these ever changing times. Furthermore, the system must be maintained in order to remain competitive commercially and to ensure that the highest level of technology is made** available to **public safety** users.

Optimally, the service rules should only permit commercial use of the network at the discretion **of the public safety licensee and only if such use does** not harm **the network** or **degrade the quality** of **service to public safety users. Additionally, steps should be** taken to ensure that **public safety has the right to negotiate a** public-private **partnership with** any **commercial entity regardless** of the outcome **of the** commercial **auction.**

We appreciate the FCC's **efforts towards creating a** national public **safety broadband network and we request that you ensure prioritization of the public safety responders' interests** throughout **the rulemaking process.**

Sincerely,

MANUEL P. NEVES
Vice **President**

MPN:cn

cc: **The Honorable Daniel K.** Inouye
    The Honorable Michael **J. Copps, Commissioner**
    The **Honorable** Jonathan *S.* **Adelstein, Commissioner**
    The Honorable **Deborah** Tate, **Commissioner**
    The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, **Commissioner**
    Marlene H. Dortch, **Federal Communications Commission**